

monkey retrovirus, MPMV Mason-Pfizer monkey virus, HERVK Human Endogenous retrovirus-K, MIAP Murine intracisternal A-type particle, HRV-5 Human retrovirus 5, PSCRV PSC retroviral sequence cloned in our laboratory, HFV Human foamy retrovirus, HIV Human immunodeficiency virus, MSRV Multiple sclerosis retrovirus, MMLV Murine Moloney leukemia virus, HTLV1 Human T-cell leukemia virus-1, HBV hepatitis B virus.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning "The retroviral nucleotides," with the following paragraph:

The retroviral nucleotides of the present invention are described herein. Unless otherwise stated, the term 'retroviral or viral nucleotides or nucleic acid molecules' refers collectively to the sequences described herein. The novel retroviral nucleotides of the present invention include, but are not limited to, (a) novel clones identified in samples from PSC patients:

On page 39, please replace the title of Table 5 beginning "Table 5. The Detection Rate of," with the following title:

Table 5. The Detection Rate of Potential PSC Related Viral cDNA Fragment in Patients with Liver Diseases by RT-PCR and Hybridization

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked up version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Exhibit B. Matter that has been deleted from Claims 1-4 and 7 is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Cancel Claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1-4 and 7 to read as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method for identifying an individual having a disorder comprising a step of detecting a presence or absence of a Primary Schlerosing Cholangitis, hereinafter, PSC, associated retroviral nucleic acid molecule, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 or a fragment or an allelic variant thereof, wherein the presence of the retroviral nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual has a disorder selected from PSC, Autoimmune Hepatitis, hereinafter AIH, Crohn's disease, cryptogenic cirrhosis or ulcerative colitis.